(c) and (d) The Ministry of Tourism sanctioned toorsim projects in 44 places in Orissa during the last three years to promote domestic tourism. These projects covered the folllowing identified travel circuits in Orissa;

1. Bhubeneswar-Puri-Konarak
2. Bhubeneswar-Lalitgiri-Ratnagiri-Udaygiri-Kendraparha-Chand Bali Bhadrak (Sun Temple)
3. Harishankar-Narsinganath-Hirakund-Sambalpur-Bed Vyas (Gandhamardhan Circuit)
4. Swaranchuda Circuit-Chandipur-Chandaneshwar-Panchelingeswar-Simlipal Sancturary-Khiching.

Special Package to Boost Tourst Sector

456. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are working out a special package to boost tourist sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof including grant of infrastructure status to the sector, changes in the legal frame work for protecting tourists and formulating guidelines for development of adventure tourism;

(c) the details of proposed system and administrative reforms proposed/under consideration; and

(d) the estimates of domestic and foreign tourists per annum and expenditure incurred by them presently with projections of growth profile for the next ten years in terms of investment, additional income and employment likely to be generated and action plan for Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In a meeting of the Ministers of Tourism, Commerce and Finance recently, it has been decided to give Export House Status to Tourism Establishments earning foreign exchange of Rs. 6 crores and above annually. The grant of infrastructure status is not envisaged at present. There are several legislations and rules for protecting tourists. The Government has formulated a policy and guidelines for ecotourism and the industry has prepared guidelines for minimal impact adventure tourism

(c) The Department of Tourism has been elevated to a Ministry of Tourism.

(d) The international tourists traffic to the country during 1997 was about 2.37 million. The estimated foreign exchange earning from tourism during the year was Rs. 11051 crores. The domestic tourist visits in the accommodation establishments during 1997 was about 156 million. The Working Group of Tourism for the Ninth Five Year Plan has projected a growth rate of about 8% in international tourist arrivals, 11% is foreign exchange earning and 9.5% is domestic tourism. The action plan for Ninth Plan includes launching of awareness campaigns, development of tourism infrastructure, product diversification and development, human resource development, and marketing and promotional activities.

महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात में पर्यटन का विकास

457. श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला: क्या पर्यटन यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) नौवीं योजना अवधि के दौरान महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात सहित राज्यों में पर्यटन के व्यापक विकास के लिए मद-वार कितनी धनराशि स्वीकृत की गई है;

(ख) आठवीं योजना अवधि के दौरान इन राज्यों में पर्यटन के विकास के लिए शुरू किए गए कार्यक्रमों और योजनाओं के संबंध में किस हद तक सफलता प्राप्त हुई है;

(ग) उक्त अवधि के दौरान पर्यटन उद्योग से कुल कितना राजस्व अर्जित हुआ है; और

(घ) क्या देश के सर्वाधिक उपेक्षित पर्यटक स्थलों के संबंध में कोई व्यापक अध्ययन किया गया है; यदि हां, तो इसके क्या परिणाम निकले है?